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FOREWORD

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BIOGRAPHY OF PROF. V. L. BOLOGA

- Rumania -

[Following is a translation of an article written by Iuliu Ghelerter, Conference Doctor, in Viata Medicala (Medical Life), Vol. X, No 1, 1 January 1963, pages 1/2.]

In our scientific movement as well as in university circles, Professor Valeriu L. Bologa is an outstanding figure. Truly, in addition to his extensive eruditeness, his great scientific integrity, and to his passion for his specialty, the history of medicine, he adds high moral qualities and a large humanist spirit. Professor V. L. Bologa has not only studied medical humanism, but has practiced it throughout his life. For his students at the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy of Cluj, for his collective, for his colleagues in the department of medical history in Rumania and for all researchers in this field, he inspires today, on his 70th birthday, all the best that the word "teacher" connotes.

Professor V. L. Bologa's teaching career has lasted for four decades. He began his study of natural sciences in Iena, then, medicine in Vienna; after an interruption during the First World War, he received his doctorate at the Faculty of Medicine of Cluj. In 1921 during a reorganization of this faculty when Professor Jules Guiart of Lyon was called on to set up a department of medical history, V. L. Bologa became his assistant; in 1927 he became a reader in the history of medicine; when Professor J. Guiart left, in 1932, he became assistant professor (profesor agregat) and in 1937 he was the titular professor of the history of medicine. Only through his tireless work and efforts to get results, a difficult task due to the indifference of the bourgeois regime, was the teaching of the history of medicine continued in our country, the department of Cluj being the only one which functioned without interruption up until the educational reform of 1948. He directed hundreds of doctoral theses and papers for diplomas on the subject of medical history, he founded in addition to the department a good specialized library, a museum collection, a photographic archive, a biographic archive with thousands of record cards, etc. Professor V. L. Bologa took pains to raise the prestige of teaching the history of medicine, looked upon in the

past as a minor discipline; he showed its ideological importance in the formation of accurate medical thinking and in the completion of the general culture of the students. His courses were enjoyed very much by the students, and the public appreciated him greatly as an outstanding lecturer.

In 1948 when departments of medical history were established at all medical and pharmaceutical institutes in the country, Professor V. L. Bologa contributed to the new teaching direction along the line of the dialectic materialism concept and helped passionately to form the new didactic cadres.

It must be mentioned that Professor V. L. Bologa fought constantly for friendship between the various nationalities of Transylvania.

The scientific works of Professor V. L. Bologa number to present over 500 titles: manuals, monographs, studies, articles, communications to scientific congresses and societies, popular writings, etc. His works have brought significant contributions to the knowledge of medicine of Transylvania, showing the importance of Rumanian-Transylvanian doctors in the history of our medicine; among these he revealed for the first time the medical personality of Ioan Piuariu-Molnar. His study "The Beginnings of Scientific Rumanian Medicine" gives the first synthesis of the developmental lines of our medicine. Of particular interest are the studies of V. L. Bologa on the rudiments of medicine in Dacia. Likewise, he chides affectionately, the study of a popular medicine and of medical folklore, showing its valuable elements; in numerous articles and conferences, he points out dangerous superstitions and habits.

Maintaining even in 1937 medical-historical connections in Moscow and Kiev, Professor V. L. Bologa studied the Rumanian-Russian medical relations, emphasizing these in the development of the health and medical organizations in our country.

Another side of the scientific activities of Professor V. L. Bologa comprises the problems of medical ethics, of orientation, and of the philosophy of medicine.

As President of the Society of Medical History and a member of the Executive Committee of the U. S. S. M., Professor V. L. Bologa stimulated the development of studies on the past history of medicine in our country and helped the sections of the U. S. S. M. branches. He is a member of many learned societies abroad and has successfully represented for many years Rumanian historiography at the International Congresses of the History of Medicine in Madrid, Athens, Warsaw, and at the Congress of the History of Science in Moscow. Professor V. L. Bologa enjoys the esteem and appreciation of the outstanding contemporary medical historians, both in the U. S. S. R. and other socialist countries and in all countries.

A champion of Rumanian-Soviet friendship, he is a constant activist in the struggle for peace.

State Prize Laureate, distinguished by our regime with orders, medals, and with the title of "Honored Man of Science of the

Romanian People's Republic", for his manifold activities, Professor V. L. Belega is guiding toward new achievements the movement of Romanian medical history; this is enlivened by the belief that through the study of the past a contribution can be made to the edification of the socialist system of health protection and to the development of medical sciences in our country.

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